



Idaho Fire Chiefs Association Update

Fire Prevention Grant Program a Success!

The Idaho Fire Chief's Association (IFCA) has successfully concluded their administration of a \$150,000 grant program that was obtained through the combined services of the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group - which is comprised of 14 agencies.

Grant awards went out to fire departments and agencies across the state with an emphasis on fire prevention, especially in wildland urban interface areas, which are constantly increasing and comprise much of Idaho. Grants helped to fund public fire safety education programs, fuel reduction programs, firefighter safety / training programs and to provide a cache of comprehensive fire prevention materials for Idaho firefighters and the public.

One of the grants went to the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), in conjunction with the State Department of Insurance, to fund a statewide "senior citizen" fire safety program that will reach Idaho seniors in every corner of the state providing useful fire prevention and life saving fire safety information. Many seniors live in rural, wildland urban interface zones where fire prevention indoors and outdoors is critical to their safety. Another grant was awarded to update the SFMO's aging "lending library" of audio visual materials that are available to all fire agencies on a loan basis, upon request.

The IFCA extends its sincere appreciation to the IDL for obtaining the grant funds from the federal government. The IFCA also extends its thanks to our Idaho Congressional delegation who helped to get those funds appropriated for use in Idaho.

IFCA President Ben Estes said, "This grant program was certainly a team effort that paid big dividends for Idaho's fire service and all the citizens they proudly serve. Ninety percent of the grant funds went directly to grant recipients with only ten percent being used for administrative costs. This is an excellent ratio with such a large and diverse grant program."

Ms. Peg Polichio, Idaho's National Fire Plan Coordinator told IFCA representatives that the IFCA's grant program was "one of the most successful in the state," and added that Idaho's grant program administration is recognized as "one of the most effective in the Nation."

Assistant Chief Doug Brown
Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Secretary-Treasurer

Photo (Left to Right) Lynn Borders – IFCA State Vice President; Ron Litz – IDL Assistant Director, Fire and Forestry; Suzanne Schedler – IDL Administrative Assistant; Peggy Polichio – IDL/USDA FS National Fire Plan Coordinator; Doug Brown – IFCA Secretary-Treasurer

